

TIMELINES

Students practice using a timeline to study

Zone In

Free Write

1. Students write as many words as possible in 1 minute.
2. Write on the board the target number of words for the group (10 times the number of students). Students don't have to worry about spelling—just quantity and speed.
3. Give the keyword INDEPENDENCE. Say GO; time 1 minute. STOP.
4. Students count their words. Add everyone's total to get the total for the group. Did the group make the goal? Ask for volunteers to read their lists.

Topic

Using timelines to study

(Materials: **Happy Birthday America** ♦♦♦ and index cards)

Introduction

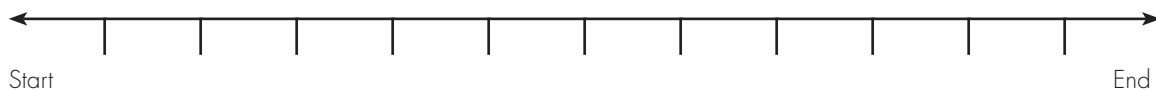
Ask: What are time lines used for? When have students seen timelines?

Possible answers:

- Timelines show dates and events in the order they happened.
- They show how events in history relate to each other.
- Timelines can show what was going on in different places in the world at the same time.
- Timelines are seen in newspapers, books, and tests.
- Timelines can help map out information and help in studying.

Ask: How do you read a timeline?

Answer: Timelines read from left to right. The earliest date is on the left end of the timeline. The last date is on the right end of the timeline. All other dates are listed chronologically from left to right.



Explain: A timeline of your entire life starts with the day you were born (on the left) and ends with today's date. Events are listed in between those two dates from the earliest to the latest.

Ask for a volunteer to come up to the board to do a timeline of his or her life.

Activity

Give out the **Happy Birthday America ♦♦♦** and an index card. Have students draw a timeline on the index card and plot the dates and events from the reading.

Wrap Up

How could a timeline be interesting or helpful to you?



HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA

July fourth is one of the most significant days in the American holiday calendar because it is America's birthday. What actually happened on this day? How do people celebrate it? Read on to find out.

The history of the Declaration of Independence

July fourth is the day the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776. It was the time of colonies and empires. After the French-Indian Wars, the British ended up with a huge national debt because the wars had been so expensive. Consequently, they raised taxes in their 13 North American colonies. The people living in the colonies resented this because it meant they were paying high taxes to a parliament where they had no representatives. In 1774 the colonies sent delegates to the first Continental Congress and a revolutionary war was started against British rule. Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence and on July 4th, 1776, nine of the 13 colonies approved it. In Independence Hall what was then called the "Province Bell" was rung on July 8th to celebrate the birth of the United States. It was renamed the "Liberty Bell" afterwards. It can be seen in the Independence Hall in Philadelphia today.

The making of modern America

Establishing the US Congress, Constitution, and President took a lot longer. Peace with Britain was made in Paris in 1783, and it was 1789 before George Washington was inaugurated as the first President of the United States.

The Star-Spangled Banner

The most important symbol of American independence is its flag. The flag is known by three different names: the Star-Spangled Banner, which is also the name of the American national anthem; the Stars and Stripes, which is its most common name; and it's also sometimes called "Old Glory." The first Star-Spangled Banner was sewn by a friend of George Washington, Betsy Ross, in 1776. There are a few theories about why the colors were chosen. In 1782 the Congress of the Confederation stated that white was chosen for purity and innocence, red for valor, and blue for vigilance and justice. George Washington is reported to have said that the stars were taken from the sky, the red from the British flag and white to signify its separation from the home country. There were 13 stars and 13 stripes to represent the 13 colonies, and the stars were placed in a circle to show that no colony could be viewed above another. Today's flag has 50 stars to represent the 50 United States.

Celebrations

Today, July fourth is celebrated with parades, marching bands, barbecues, picnics, and fireworks. Some people wear red, white, and blue clothes, and dress their homes with red, white, and blue streamers. Being a patriotic nation, it's a big party for Americans everywhere. Some of the biggest celebrations are in the following places:

- In Virginia there are historic parades with people dressed in 18th-century costumes.
- The Empire State Building in New York is decorated with red, white, and blue lights.
- In Arizona, Native Americans celebrate with a pow-wow, a rodeo, and tribal dances.
- In Bridgeport, California, someone reads the Declaration of Independence to the town at 10 am. Then, cowboys and Indians come into town on horseback. There is a big pie-eating competition and a barbecue, and afterwards a game of baseball.

Food

Eating strawberries, blueberries, and whipped cream is typical, and there are hundreds of other recipes for patriotic cookies, Stars-and-Stripes Jell-O, muffins, and cakes. The most traditional dish has to be mom's apple pie. "As American as apple pie" is a common saying.